

BOOK ALERT

March/April 2007



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ARCHITECTURE & URBAN PLANNING

1. Light, Jennifer S.
From warfare to welfare : defense intellectuals and urban problems in Cold War America / Jennifer S. Light. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005, 287 p. 307.7 LIG

In this well-written study, Jennifer S. Light introduces a new and important cast of urban decision-makers to the story of post-war urban America. She argues that the technologies and values of the cold war fundamentally shaped the history of post-war urban America. She explores the little-known linkage between defense and civilian affairs and how urban problem solvers adapted the expertise of defense professionals. *From Warfare to Welfare* explores the transfer of innovations from military to city planning and management. It also investigates how a continuing source of inspiration for American city administrators lay in the American preparations for war. -- C/CH/M/ND

THE ARTS

2. Biel, Steven.
American Gothic : a life of America's most famous painting / Steven Biel. Norton & Co., ©2005. 215 p. 759.13 BIE

Probably no painting ever achieved iconic status so quickly as Grant Wood's flat, meticulous rendering of two people, a house, a pitchfork and a barn. Its title refers to the architectural style of the building in the background, but from its first appearance before the public in 1930, American Gothic has been regarded not as a work of art but as a work of rhetoric: a crafted, compelling statement about American life with which the viewer may or may not agree. He does a terrific job laying out the various aesthetic and political preoccupations of the relentlessly self-regarding American century, and how they attached themselves to the work, which turns 75 this year. The painting is detailed and contextualized in thirty black & white and eight color illustrations. Because Wood was both an Iowan and a confirmed Bohemian, the carefully staged composition was at first understood to be a pointed satire of Midwestern Puritanism; as the Depression sank in, the grim pair came to convey a noble tenacity that rallied a stricken nation. American Gothic is an extraordinary odyssey of America's most loved and reviled painting.

Biel's confident and lucid readings recover layers of complexity from a deceptively simple work. -- C/M/ND (*Adapted from Publishers Weekly*, ©2005)

3. Kelly, Thomas Forrest.
First nights at the opera / Thomas Forrest Kelly. Yale University Press, ©2004. 441 p. 782.1 KEL

Music historian Kelly, in *First Nights at the Opera*, narrates the social history of European opera during its golden age by taking us behind the scenes at the premiere performances of five extraordinary and influential operas – Handel's *Giulio Cesare* (London, 1724), Mozart's *Don Giovanni* (Prague, 1787), Meyerbeer's *Les Huguenots* (Paris, 1836), Wagner's *Das Rheingold* (Bayreuth, 1876), and Verdi's *Otello* (Milan, 1887). All of these operas are monumental works that prolong to be extremely popular. A gifted storyteller, Kelly reproduces much of the commotion, enthusiasm, and glamour of the opening performance; vividly re-creates the exciting moment when they were first viewed by the public; and provides glimpses of their social and historical settings along with information about everyone involved in the production, from composers to impresarios. Quotes from contemporary documents, reviews, letters, memoirs, and newspaper articles flesh out the story and add depth to the general scene. This thoroughly enjoyable and informative book will delight all opera lovers. -- M (*Adapted from Library Journal*, ©2004)

4. Perl, Jed.
New art city / Jed Perl. Knopf, 2005. 641 p. 700.9 PER

In this absorbing survey of the New York art world's heyday from 1940s through the 1970s, Perl illuminates a revolutionary, unprecedented time and place in American culture. He expansively and generously illustrates the exploration of the increasingly international art world of mid-20th-century New York City and examines the social and cultural factors that resulted in New York's becoming the art capital of the world and the center for the emergence of new art forms like Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art. The title incorporates the individual histories and works of famous and lesser-known artists such as Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning, Hans Hofmann, and Joan Mitchell, as well as contributions in other media (e.g., architecture, drama, and dance) and the various venues where artists lived, developed, and displayed their works. It is an authoritative yet personal account revealing journey, encompassing the charged commingling of artists absorbed in largely

solitary studio efforts during modernism's tail end, to Pop art's fixation on reproduction, consumerism and celebrity. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Library Journal*, ©2005)

5. Rizzo, Michael.
The art direction handbook for film / Michael Rizzo. Focal Press,
©2005. 333 p. REF 791.43025 RIZ

This handbook is a comprehensive guide to art direction for films and videos. Written by a highly respected Hollywood art director, this professional manual provides valuable guidelines for the contemporary art directors as well as the aspiring ones. It talks about the set-up of the art department, scouting for locations, research, executing the design concept, constructing scenery, surviving production and other day to day job duties. Interviews with prominent art directors are included to provide wide perspectives from the industry. Extensive collection of useful forms and checklists are intended to help perform the job duties efficiently and effectively. It also provides valuable career advice and also tips on how to succeed on the job and secure future employment. -- (For use only in the Library) C/CH/M/ND

BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

6. Berman, Karen.
Financial intelligence : a manager's guide to knowing what the numbers really mean / Karen Berman and Joe Knight ; with John Case. Harvard Business School Press, ©2006. 257 p. 658.1511 BER

In *Financial Intelligence*, Karen Berman and Joe Knight elaborate the essentials of finance with an extra dimension. This accessibly written text introduces business managers, entrepreneurs, and students to the fundamentals of financial statements. Using a variety of illustrative case examples, the authors explain how to decipher and analyze financial documents and how to then make informed decisions based on that information. They also discuss financial transparency requirements. Chapters are written in easy-to-read style teaching the fundamentals in a way that can be understood and put to work straight away by everyone. Authors have avoided complex technical jargons. Further, the text is supplemented with entertaining stories from real companies. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Book News, Inc.*, ©2006)

7. Davenport, Thomas H.
Thinking for a living : how to get better performance and results from knowledge workers / Thomas H. Davenport. Harvard Business School Press, ©2005. 226 p. 658.3 DAV

In this title, Davenport explains the term “knowledge worker” highlighting their importance in today’s organizations and the way they should be managed. This critical sector of workforce is growing constantly in size and importance. The term knowledge worker is used loosely among executives and consultants. While everyone aspires to become a knowledge worker, very few understand who they are, what they do and mean to the company. Davenport highlights the importance of this specific sector and argues that knowledge worker’s role is vital to the firm’s competitive and economic health. They have different motivational attitude and their autonomy requirements vastly differs from that of the industrial age workers. This calls for different management techniques for improving their performance and productivity. *Thinking for a Living* provides a rich insight into the way knowledge workers think, accomplish tasks, and get motivated to excel. Davenport identifies four major categories of knowledge workers and prescribes unique management strategies for specific types of workers including creating knowledge-friendly cultures and nurturing knowledge worker communities, for example Chrysler's tech clubs for engineers. He offers practical advice based on research and an understanding of what it takes to work in a knowledge environment. Davenport provides managers and leaders a set of tools to understand the different types of knowledge work and the management techniques to manage each. Ultimate focus of the book is on getting better performance and results from the knowledge workers. The book is a must read for every company and their motivational leaders. -- C/CH/M/ND

8. Dinsmore, Paul C.
Right projects done right! : from business strategy to successful project implementation / Paul Dinsmore, Terrence Cooke-Davies. Jossey-Bass, ©2006. 303 p. 658.4012 DIN

The Right Projects Done Right! addresses the issues associated with implementation of project management in the industries. It investigates what works well and what doesn't, how industries differ in their use of the project-based enterprise, how it works in small, medium, and large organizations. It also reflects the advances that have been made since the emergence of multiple project management in the organizations. It provides managers with

the information that would be needed by them to implement an enterprise-wide project management environment. -- C/M/ND

9. Gerzon, Mark.
Leading through conflict : how successful leaders transform differences into opportunities / Mark Gerzon. Harvard Business School, ©2006. 273 p. 658.4092 GER

Forces of globalization have seen the world growing smaller leading to increasing conflicts between individuals and groups. The factors that normally lead to conflict include ethnicity, political and personal differences. This growing conflict poses new challenge of conflict management for today's perceptive leaders – bringing together the people with differences and putting them to work together. Mark Gerzon argues that leaders have failed to rise to this challenge. He not only offers a how-to-guide for resolving conflict, but a handbook that changes the perspective of the leaders. His idealism is strongly grounded in the absorbing examples drawn from decades of work with organizational, political, and global conflicts of all kinds. *Leading Through Conflict* provides eight powerful tools that can be used by the leaders to transform seemingly intractable differences into progress. Each tool is covered extensively and is appropriately illustrated with relevant practical examples from organizations, groups, and individuals. This is a valuable guide of action rather than a theoretical discourse. Many of the tools identified and elaborated by Gerzon have much broader application -- C/CH/M/ND

10. Harry Levinson on the psychology of leadership. Harvard Business School Pub., ©2006. 184 p. 658.4092 LEV

State of the art technologies and tougher competition coupled with uncertain economy have ended up in creating a stressful workplace environment than ever. Employees are caught between the daunting career demands and personal as well as family obligations, making it more difficult than ever to manage and lead them. Dr. Harry Levinson, a groundbreaking medical researcher, takes an investigative look into the issue. He addresses the problem of dealing with abrasive personalities and handling the emotional and career challenges faced by the managers. This book seeks to find a solution to this and attempts to help managers successfully work through common and vexing human issues encountered in the workplace. -- C/CH/M/ND

11. Huselid, Mark A.
The workforce scorecard : managing human capital to execute strategy / Mark A. Huselid, Brian E. Becker, Richard W. Beatty. Harvard Business School Press, ©2005. 278 p. 658.301 HUS

Success of a firm in today's marketplace, which is fueled by intangible assets, depends a lot on the optimal use of the organization's human capital. Organizations need to know their workforce to perform at their best. Huselid, Becker, and Beatty, in *The Workforce Scorecard*, focus on the elements of workforce success necessary for the execution of corporate strategies, including culture, mindset, competencies, and behavior. The authors also outline three challenges in analyzing these elements and maximizing potential – perspective (viewing the workforce in terms of contribution rather than cost), metrics (for assessing strategy implementation), and execution (creating a workforce measurement system). Practical in both its approach and content, this book offers crucial lessons for leveraging human capital to achieve strategic success. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Book News, Inc., ©2005*)

12. Kanigel, Robert.
The one best way : Frederick Winslow Taylor and the enigma of efficiency / Robert Kanigel. MIT Press, 2005. 675 p. 658.5 TAY

Frederick Winslow Taylor (1856-1915) was the first efficiency expert, who has had immense effect on the private and public lives of the 20th century men and women. Coming from a wealthy Philadelphia family, Taylor turned down Harvard and went to work in a foundry, then as an apprentice in a steel mill's machine shop, where he became a foreman by the time he was 24. Taylor, the father of scientific management, came up with his scientific "time and motion" studies of how long a worker took to do each step of a specific job, and how long the best workers should take. He also earned a degree in engineering from the Stevens Institute and went on to increase the efficiency of machines and that of men. At the peak of his celebrity in the early twentieth century, Taylor gave lectures around the country and was as famous as Edison or Ford. The so-called Taylor System or Taylorism came to be internationally known. In 1912, a congressional committee was formed to determine whether working people should be subjected to the rule of a clock, and Taylor had to defend his system before the committee. Kanigel's admiration for his subject is tempered with realistic skepticism telling the story of a paradigmatic American figure whose influence would be felt from the New Deal to Soviet

Russia and remains pervasive even today. -- C/CH/M/ND (Adapted from *Publishers Weekly*, ©2005)

13. Knight, Charles F.
Performance without compromise : how Emerson consistently achieves winning results / Charles F. Knight with Davis Dyer. Harvard Business School Press, ©2005. 253 p. 658.4 KNI

Emerson ranks among the world's most admired, innovative and successful companies, and has constantly and consistently achieved high earnings through varying economic cycles from the 1950s through 2000. In the light of volatile marketplace conditions, the success story of this 115-year old global manufacturing and technology leader is remarkable and valuable for today's managers. Charles F. Knight – who was CEO of Emerson for 27 of its 43 consecutive years of increased profits – himself reveals the secret behind Emerson's long-term competitiveness and says that it is a dynamic management process carried out with unrelenting discipline. In *Performance Without Compromise*, Knight breaks down the key components of the Emerson management process in detail to elaborate how this core process enables Emerson to address and overcome major challenges ranging from technological discontinuities to intense global competition. -- C/CH/M/ND

14. The lean six sigma pocket toolbox : a quick reference guide to nearly 100 tools for improving process quality, speed, and complexity / Michael L. George ... [et al.]. McGraw-Hill, ©2005. 282 p. 658.4013 LEA

The Lean Six Sigma Pocket Toolbox combines the synergies of Lean and Six Sigma tools and concepts and offers expert advice on the selection of best tool in different situations for diverse purposes, so as to maximize production efficiency and maintain control over each step in the managerial process. These tools provide greater speed, less process variation, and more bottom-line impact to the organization. The book provides a complete and exhaustive reference to the tools and concepts needed to understand, implement, and leverage Lean Six Sigma. Arrangement of the tools by their purpose and use makes this reference tool very handy. -- C/CH/M/ND

15. Miller-Davidson, Molly.
Launch it! : how to turn good ideas into great products that sell / Molly
Miller-Davidson, JoAnne Stone-Geier, and Michael B. Levinson.
Collins, ©2005. 272 p. 658.7 MIL

This is an easy-to-read handbook that provides an insider's view of each stage of product development, launching, and marketing. Talking in context of today's competitive United States marketplace, it offers battle-tested insights to moving one's business to new levels of success. The book has been written in simple language and is easily accessible. Careful explanation of terms makes it comprehensible even for a novice on the subject. Also included are inspiring company stories of entrepreneurial success and an invaluable resource guide. -- C/CH/M/ND

16. Reichheld, Frederick F.
The ultimate question : driving good profits and true growth /
Fred Reichheld. Harvard Business School Press, ©2006. 211 p.
658.1554 REI

Importance of customer satisfaction in business is well established and widely recognized today. This book takes this idea to two extremes. First, it claims that customer satisfaction is more important than any other business criterion except profits. Second, it argues that customer satisfaction is best measured by one simple question, "Would you recommend this business to a friend?" This helps companies in tracking promoters and detractors and evaluating organization's performance through its customer's eyes. Pressure for financial performance lures executives to look for "bad profits," that is, profits obtained at the expense of frustrating or disappointing customers. Such profits can only lead to short-term financial profits, but it does not work well in the long-term. Only persistent focus on customer satisfaction can generate "good profits." Reichheld makes a strong rhetorical case. His arguments stand up. He provides actual examples of companies that have found these set of actions work for them both in terms of customer satisfaction and profitability. -- C/CH/M/ND

17. Salacuse, Jeswald W.
Leading leaders : how to manage smart, talented, rich, and powerful people / Jeswald W. Salacuse. AMACOM, ©2006. 218 p. 658.4092 SAL

As the name suggests, *Leading leader* is all about managing and harnessing the strength of the most important human resources of a company who by the virtue of their skills, power and position in the organization are the most difficult ones to manage. Success of a company depends on its ability to manage these elites and align their unusual skills with that of the organization's goals. The principles, wisdom and tasks that Salacuse teaches in this book would guide its readers toward a richer understanding of what it takes to be a leader of the leaders. The approach of this book is both philosophical and practical. Salacuse argues that the leaders in the professional firms must "lead the leaders" and not mere "troops" or "employees" or "players." By leaders, he refers to the people who have their own independent power base outside their organizational roles. He employs political metaphors to make practical points. *Leading leaders* is a wise, practical, and lucid book that would be of special interest to anyone who is in a leadership role and desires to be more effective. -- C/CH/M/ND

18. Sessa, Valerie I.
Continuous learning in organizations : individual, group, and organizational perspectives / Valerie I. Sessa, Manuel London. Lawrence Erlbaum, ©2006. 281 p. 658.3124 SES

Continuous learning is about developing skills in reflection and inquiry. It is about learning how to learn and make one's real life experiences become his own learning lab. This concept of learning imparts priority on noticing, adapting and learning from changes. The concept of continuous learning has fast caught in the recent past and is more relevant today in the light of the forces of globalization, changing economic scenario, and increased competition. In the new atmosphere, individuals, groups and organizations need to learn continuously to be ready for these changes and maximize their chance of success. Even organizations have responded to this and are rapidly changing. There is considerable literature on learning at each of these levels. However, unlike other books on continuous learning, *Continuous Learning in Organizations* focuses not just on promoting continuous learning in organizations, but also on integrating learning at all levels – individual, group, and at organizational level. It demonstrates how learning processes at one level affects learning at other levels. The book is built on the idea that

individuals, groups, and organizations are living systems with internal learning mechanisms. It focuses on “knowing about” rather than “knowing how.” The book intends to communicate the meaning and value of continuous learning to individuals, groups, and organizations. Students and practitioners in the fields of human resource development, training, management and executive education would find this book oriented towards them. -- C/CH/M/ND

19. Stevens, Ruth P.
Trade show and event marketing : plan, promote & profit / Ruth P. Stevens. Thomson Texere, ©2005. 340 p. 659.152 STE

This book details the trade show industry and talks about maximizing the trade show potential of the companies. The book starts with the explanation on how trade shows could be utilized as part of a company's entire go-to-market strategy. To help marketers maximize the effectiveness of their trade shows, Stevens offers an overview of trade show strategy and specific ideas and examples for implementing that strategy. She explains how to set objectives, select events best suited to particular marketing goals, manage all aspects of a trade show booth, and use the right metrics for measuring success. She also includes ten case histories from a range of companies to illustrate and explain her tips. The book is quite comprehensive and is a valuable resource guide for anyone looking for expert advice on making a trade show or corporate event more effective. -- C/CH/M/ND
(Adapted from Book News, Inc., ©2004)

20. Watkins, Michael.
Shaping the game : the new leader's guide to effective negotiating / Michael Watkins. Harvard Business School Press, ©2006. 196 p. 658.4052 WAT

In this excellent guide to negotiation, Watkins highlights the most valuable skill for the upwardly mobile – negotiation. According to him, leaders should think of negotiation as a game of strategic interaction among intelligent players for which it pays to be prepared with a reasonable investment in research and analysis. The nuances are almost endless, and Watkins probes into them all, providing negotiation tips, frameworks, assessment tools and strategies. Helpful charts and checklists have been included throughout the text. The text is concise, highly readable and eminently practical. -- C/CH/M/ND

COMMUNICATION

21. DiMarco, John.
Web portfolio design and applications / John DiMarco. Idea Group Publishing, ©2006. 304 p. 374.126 DIM

Web Portfolio Design and Applications provides a combination of theory, pedagogy, and practice to help enable faculty and students a cross disciplines to explore creating a Web portfolio. It gives an overview of the web portfolio and how it is being used in academic programs and professional scenarios. Web portfolio is an information product and serves as a dynamic hub for communication between students, faculty, employers, and academia. Its communication depends on the concepts, images, design, visual quality, usability, and messages within the Web portfolio. To be effective, the communication has to be persuasive and goal oriented, so that it can persuade the visitor to act favorably towards the author of the Web portfolio. This book gives a broad picture of the Web portfolio and intends to serve as a tool for imparting the foundation skills and act as a motivational force. -- C/CH/M/ND

22. The Press / Geneva Overholser, Kathleen Hall Jamieson, editors.
Oxford University Press, ©2005. 473 p. 071.3 PRE

This title takes a close look at the role of the press in a democracy. It is a collection of essays by leading American journalists and scholars. The essays examine the orientation of the press in a democracy, the function of the press in democracies, the government and the press, the structure and nature of the American press, and the future of news and journalism. The collection is aimed at correcting mistaken impressions about American media, inside and outside of the U.S., that mainstream conventional journalism is the only "legitimate" journalism; that journalism as practiced currently in the United States is the only valid model; and that American journalism is not affected by journalistic trends and developments in other nations. The essayists consider the role of the press as watchdog in a democracy, the importance of advocacy journalism in protecting the rights of minorities, alternative models for news delivery, the growing trend toward profit-oriented media monopolies, and the function of the press in wartime. -- ND (*Adapted from Booklist, ©2005*)

ECONOMICS

23. Evans, David S.
Paying with plastic : the digital revolution in buying and borrowing /
David S. Evans and Richard Schmalensee. 2nd ed. MIT Press, ©2005.
367 p. 332.765 EVA

To date there have been four major innovations in the mode of payment for things – metallic coins in ancient times, checks in the middle ages, paper money in modern times, and now payment cards. *Paying with Plastic* observes a quiet revolution in the United States economy – switching over from checks and cash to payment cards – credit, debit, and charge cards. This book looks at the complex industry that lies behind the revolution in how we pay for and finance our purchases. Since Diners Club issued its first charge cards in 1950, payment cards have revolutionized the way we pay for goods and services and when we pay for them. In 1998, United States consumers had more than 720 million payment cards, which they could use to pay for goods and services at more than 4 million merchant locations in the United States and another 11 million in other countries. The *Paying with Plastic* examines the evolution of the payment card industry through the lens of economics. The authors provide a non-technical distillation of their years of research on the economic, technological, and institutional forces that have shaped the payment card industry. Almost everybody would enjoy this book as most of us are concerned with the payment cards in some way or the other, but people in the banking or payment card industries would find it of special significance to them. -- C/CH/M/ND

24. Fromartz, Samuel.
Organic, inc. : natural foods and how they grew / Samuel Fromartz.
Harcourt, ©2006. 294 p. 338.17 FRO

Recent decades has witnessed the growth of organic food into a multibillion-dollar business, which is being seen as the natural alternative to the industrial agribusiness and processed packaged foods. Fromartz's portrait of the adolescent industry reveals that that success has prompted an epic identity crisis. Big corporations like Kraft and General Mills own the bulk of the market, and half of all organic sales come from the largest 2% of farms, alienating those most committed to producing chemical-free fruits and vegetables on small family farms, and selling them locally. Business journalist Fromartz uncovers the trailblazers' tactics – how Whole Foods Market

developed a religion of "moral hedonism," how Earthbound Farm launched a revolution with bagged salad mix and how Silk soy milk became "the number one brand in the dairy case, among all milk and soy milk brands." Fromartz demonstrates that small growers remain at the heart of this big business. Fromartz's profiles – of pioneers who sell their produce at farmers' markets and foster cooperatively-owned, local distribution networks – deftly navigate the complexities of pesticide issues, organic production methods and the legal controversies surrounding organic certification. This is a pragmatic, wise assessment of the compromises the organic movement has struck to gain access to the mainstream. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Publishers Weekly*, ©2006)

25. Hanson, Barry J.
Energy power shift : [benefiting from today's new technologies] / Barry J. Hanson. Lakota Scientific Press, ©2004. 204 p. 333.794 HAN

This book presents a great overview of the renewable energy technologies that can enable communities to produce their own transportation fuels, electricity and heat. The book argues that the United States has five times the renewable energy needed for all energy services. The needed technologies are very close to commercialization. As per the author, a renewable energy based economy would save the United States \$750 billion per year and in the process, it will create over six million new jobs, which would revitalize local communities all across the country. The book looks into how the U.S. economic and national security is gravely at risk because of their dependence on imported fuels. The communication in this eye-opening book is very convincing and the flow of the book is very smooth. Concepts are elaborated with graphics and qualified data. Footnotes, bibliographies, glossary, and URL listing of Internet resources further supplement the text. -- C/CH/M/ND

26. Marling, William.
How "American" is globalization? / William H. Marling. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006. 238 p. 337.73 MAR

In this intriguing and thought provoking analysis, William Marling investigates the influence of American technology and culture on foreign societies. Conclusions drawn by him are based on a series of case studies that reflect the impact of local cultural, geographic, economic, educational, and

social impact on the adaptations of American culture and lifestyle around the globe. Marling challenges the common perception about the Americanization of the world. American hegemony in the world is often seen in the light of growing global popularity of the American icons like McDonald. Marling, however, opines that the local environment and forces govern the extent to which the globalization is accepted and adapted. The forces of globalization, thus, incorporate the local variables to customize itself to best suit the native sentiments. Author has successfully driven his point home while examining the unexpected ways in which American technology travels globally. -- C/CH/M/ND

27. McCracken, Grant David.
Culture and consumption II : markets, meaning, and brand management / Grant McCracken. Indiana University Press, ©2005/ 226 p. 339.47 MCC

This new book transcends the usual platitudes about the consumer society for a more elaborate and challenging anthropological treatment. Each section includes a brief essay and an academic article. While the essay provides a quick, provocative glimpse of the topic, the article provides a deeper anthropological treatment. The book opens with a broadside against the now thoroughly conventionalized attack on the consumer culture. Essays included address various sectors and aspects. This engaging, informative, and eye-opening book explores into the modern consumer culture. -- C/CH/M/ND

EDUCATION

28. Barkley, Elizabeth F.
Collaborative learning techniques : a handbook for college faculty / Elizabeth F. Barkley, K. Patricia Cross, and Claire Howell Major. Jossey-Bass, ©2005. 303 p. REF 378.12 BAR

Collaborative Learning Techniques is a clear, comprehensive, and practical guide to collaborative learning. Intended for the college teachers, it looks into the what, why, and how of collaborative learning. It is a indispensable guide that addresses several major concerns related to improving student learning. Collaborative learning actively engages students and has distinct advantages over the traditional methods like classroom lecture

and large-group discussions. It emphasizes on the learning through active individual engagement of the students. The book provides various collaborative learning techniques and summarizes the research on the effectiveness of collaborative learning. This handbook is tailored to the needs of the academicians at college and university level and can be read and used in collaborative ways. -- (For use only in the Library) C/CH

29. Best technology practices in higher education / edited by Les Lloyd. Information Today, ©2005. 242 p. 378.1734 BES

This book investigates the increasing penetration of technology in higher education industry and demonstrates how technology impacts institutional performance. Innovative and practical examples in a range of key application areas bring together the success stories of various technology leaders. Coverage includes firsthand accounts of school technology projects that have transformed classrooms, services, and administrative operations. The book has been organized in four major sections – "Best Practices in Teaching and Course Delivery," "Best Practices in Administrative Operations," "Technical or Integrative Best Practices," and "Future Best Practices." It is an invaluable resource especially useful for the technology and information staffs. -- C/CH/M

30. Fetsco, Thomas. Educational psychology : an integrated approach to classroom decisions / Thomas Fetsco, John McClure. Allyn and Bacon, ©2005. 524 p. REF 370.15 FET

This well written, informative, and logically organized book on educational psychology involves students with the material through a carefully integrated series of activities and applications that demonstrate how theory affects learning. Practical in its approach and clear in its communication, the book is conceived on the basic idea that learning is the core focus of educational psychology, which can be fostered through active engagement with theory and applications. The title attempts to develop a meaningful understanding of the role of educational psychology theory in classroom teaching. The authors integrate theories of learning and motivation with a variety of important classroom decisions. They involve readers in the analysis and decision-making that the teachers undergo everyday. The book is oriented towards regular classroom teaching and attempts to translate theory into practice. -- (For use only in the Library) ND

31. Multicultural and multilingual literacy and language : contexts and practices / edited by Fenice B. Boyd and Cynthia H. Brock with Mary S. Rozendal ; foreword by Lisa Delpit. Guilford Press, ©2004. 338 p. 370.117 MUL

This conceptual title explores the influences of children's culture and language on their literacy learning. Twenty-seven American educators and researchers contribute 17 chapters illuminating ways in which educators and administrators might construct meaningful, challenging, and dynamic literacy and language learning communities in culturally and linguistically diverse classrooms. Cutting-edge theory and research is interwoven with detailed case studies that bring to life the complexities of teaching in today's multicultural and multilingual classroom. Coverage includes decisions about using language and texts, and structuring classroom contexts to promote literacy learning; teacher ideologies, motivation for changing beliefs and practices, and the potential positive impact on students' learning; students' perspectives on diversity and literacy; and family and community resources. -- M (*Adapted from Book News, Inc., ©2004*)

ENVIRONMENT

32. Environmental values in a globalising world : nature, justice and governance / edited by Jouni Paavola and Ian Lowe. Routledge, 2005. 253 p. 333.72 ENV

Based on the series of seminars initiated by the Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance (KCELJG) of Griffith University on liberal democratic values in the globalizing world, this volume brings together contributions from prominent philosophers, political scientists and other scholars on the challenges that globalization poses to traditional environmental values. *Environmental Values in a Globalising World* addresses and calls for timely and concerned international action in response to the changing global environmental changes. -- M

33. Hackett, Steven C.
Environmental and natural resources economics : theory, policy,
and the sustainable society. 3rd ed. M.E. Sharpe, ©2006. 524 p.
333.7 HAC

Environment and natural resources economics provides an excellent treatment of environmental and natural resource economics and at the same time it highlights the emerging subject of sustainability and sustainable development. It presents the fundamental philosophical and ethical questions of sustainability in provocative fashion, along with the many important practical and political challenges of this growing field. Starting with the basic definitions and concepts, Hackett proceeds to explain and expand upon the value systems and the allocation decisions that we make as individuals and as a society. As is reflected in the title itself, the book concentrates on the decisions that are made about the use of natural resources, including wilderness, forests, minerals, and fisheries. In additions to these, other issues like pollution and the options for controlling pollution, market mechanism for pollution reduction are also included. The book provides a valuable introduction to a critically important subject and would be appreciated by even those who do not have economics background. -- C/CH/ND

HISTORY & CIVILIZATION

34. Hall, Simon.
Peace and freedom : the civil rights and antiwar movements in the
1960s / Simon Hall. University of Pennsylvania Press, ©2005. 267 p.
959.7043 HAL

Peace and freedom is an in-depth account of the relationship between the civil rights and the antiwar movements of the 1960s. The author explores two linked themes – the civil rights movement’s response to the war in Vietnam, and the relationship between the black groups that opposed the war and the mainstream peace movement. The book is well-researched presenting a judicious chronicle of these movements. It also offers an in-depth look at the history of black America’s links with the American left and with pacifism. -- C/CH/M/ND

35. Mann, Charles C.
1491 : new revelations of the Americas before Columbus / Charles C. Mann. Knopf, ©2005. 465 p. 970.011 MAN

This spellbinding study reorients our thought about the Americas during the pre-Columbian times. What were the Americas like before the arrival of Christopher Columbus changed the native cultures of the Western Hemisphere forever? Mann, in this fast-paced history, provides a fascinating, in-depth examination of this question, identifying tantalizing clues and offering new conclusions from recently discovered archaeological evidence. He explores three different but ultimately related themes. First, the demographics of pre-contact Native American societies are examined to demonstrate that populations in many parts of the Americas were actually much larger than previously believed. It is likely that more people were living in the Americas during pre-1492 than in Europe. Next, Mann probes the probability that native peoples inhabited the Americas much earlier than previously thought. Finally, he examines the ecological impact that indigenous groups had on their environments. Mann has done a superb job of analyzing and distilling information, offering a balanced and thoughtful perspective on each of his themes in engaging prose. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Library Journal, ©2005*)

36. Porter, Gareth.
Perils of dominance : imbalance of power and the road to war in Vietnam / Gareth Porter. University of California Press, ©2005. 403 p. 959.7043 POR

In this provocative but scholarly work, Vietnam historian Porter argues that it was the decisive military superiority, and not the fear of a communist planet, that steered the United States into the Southeast Asian debacle. This book is completely new interpretation of how and why the United States went to war in Vietnam. This revisionist premise suggests that in the '60s, the U.S. acted as the world's lone superpower in much the same fashion as it does today upending the traditional thinking on the war's major cause. Porter also contends that successive national security advisors were determined to press these advantages despite the reluctance of their commanders-in-chiefs. These fascinating assessments are intertwined with familiar themes, such as Eisenhower's determination to avoid sending troops to aid France in its last ditch attempt at Dien Bien Phu. Johnson's advisors' use of the domino theory, the belief that the fall of South Vietnam would unleash communism throughout the region, as a political tool to convince the president

and the public to press forward with escalation is one of the book's more engrossing arguments. But Porter's belief that Johnson "was never held in thrall by any Cold War doctrine... to save South Vietnam" is curious in light of the above. It also ignores strong influences shaping his subsequent actions in Vietnam: the 1949 "loss of China" to communism and the resulting McCarthyite hysteria. Nevertheless, Porter's intriguing reinterpretation of Vietnam politics is certain to stoke debate among academics. -- M
(Adapted from *Publishers Weekly*, ©2005)

37. Schurman, Joe.
Professional live communications server / Joe Schurman, Randy Thomas, Bob Christian. Wiley/Wrox, ©2006. 302 p. 005.2768 SCH

Professional live communications server is a very useful guide to Microsoft Office Live Communications Server (LCS), which is an emerging technology that is expected to be an important component of Microsoft's business solutions in the coming year. The book first introduces this technology to the readers and then the suite of Unified Communications products offered by Microsoft, such as Live Meeting 2005, Communicator 2005, and LCS 2005 SP1. It then elaborates how this technology can be introduced to the enterprise. The book has been concluded with troubleshooting information and answers to frequently asked questions. Templates for test plans and design guides are also given at the end. The title intends to cater to the specific requirements of those who are interested in understanding Microsoft Unified Communications products or are looking for an enterprise collaboration and communications solution. The book would be of special interest to those who are deploying this technology or are reviewing this technology for deployment within their own infrastructure. -- C/CH/M/ND

38. The United States at war / edited by John C. Super. 2 v. Salem Press, ©2005. REF 355.009 UNI

This two-volume set of 177 essays traces the involvement of the United States in wars from Revolutionary times through the post-Cold War conflicts and examines these conflicts from different perspectives. It provides overviews of the conflicts ranging from detailed examinations of individual battles to discussions of broader issues of each conflict. Essays have been mostly taken from nine other Salem resources. However, these have been updated, as necessary, and new materials have also been added.

The set is arranged chronologically – each section covering a specific conflict. A list for further reading has also been added at the end of each segment. The title is richly illustrated with illustrations, maps, time lines, and other graphics. -- (For use only in the Library) CH/ND

INFORMATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

39. Cohn, John M.
Staffing the modern library : a how-to-do-it manual / John M. Cohn and Ann L. Kelsey. Neal-Schuman Publishers, ©2005. 105 p.
REF 023.9 COH

The advent of recent electronic technology, especially the computer and Internet technologies, has radically influenced the basic functioning of the libraries. This has led to a paradigm shift in the staffing requirements of the modern libraries. The new skill-requirements of the library staff, outsourcing and insourcing library work, contracting, Web site developments, digital resources, and the expanding definition of the term staff – all these issues have been addressed in this manual. Well organized with clear contents and focused scope, the book addresses the contemporary concern of modern libraries. Each chapter has annotated list of Internet and print resources. The volume offers hands-on information and discussion of how present-day libraries must adopt flexible approaches to resolving workforce challenges. 21st century librarians seeking solution for critical service issues would find this manual worth. -- (For use only in the Library) C/M/ND

40. Easttom, Chuck.
Computer security fundamentals / Chuck Easttom. / Pearson Prentice Hall, ©2006. 344 p. 005.8 EAS

Protecting one's computer and network is everybody's serious concern today. Owing to the increasing number of cyber crime cases and computer security breaches, it becomes necessary to be equipped for such security threats. This book takes a deeper look into the issue. This single volume resource covers all the basic concepts, terminology and issues, along with particular skills essential to information security. It explains the modus operandi of the hackers – how they target a system, obtain information, and crack systems. Topics covered broadly include virus attacks, buffer overflow, hacking spyware and network defense, as well as specialized areas including

cyber terrorism, industrial espionage, and encryption. The security threats are followed by the steps that should be taken to protect valuable information. Although, the concepts included in this book are from Windows perspective, they are virtually applicable to any system. -- C/M/ND

41. Jang, Michael H.
Linux patch management : keeping Linux systems up to date / Michael Jang. Prentice Hall, ©2006. 262 p. 005.432 JAN

The growth of Linux operating system has seen the emergence of its various dialects – Red Hat, Fedora, SUSE, Debian and others. At the same time, the Linux developers are constantly coming up with what is known as patch – the updates on various features, security enhancements, improved productivity and so on. This book caters to this specific need of the experienced as well as budding Linux administrators. Patch management being a critical Linux management skill, this guide elaborates on how to plan a patch repository for a Fedora Core or Red Hat Linux, keep SUSE Linux Enterprise Servers up to date, using YaST Online Update Server or Zenworks Linux Management, mirror repositories with rsync, and use apt to maintain a Debian client. It further elaborates how to configure apt and yum clients for Red Hat package manager (RPM-based) distributions. -- C/ND

42. Jones, Angie.
Thinking animation : bridging the gap between 2D and CG / by Angie Jones and Jamie Oliff. Thomson Course Technology, ©2007. 345 p. REF 006.696 JON

Thinking Animation is the first of its kind. Unlike conventional books on CG animation, this full-color book teaches animators how to utilize traditional animation thinking skills before animating on a computer. It effectively teaches how to “think” before animating on a computer. It contains a history of the field of animation as well as insight into how today’s CG studios operate. The title provides invaluable insight as to what it takes to survive in all the volatile and quirky work of professional animation. Animators of all levels and backgrounds would find this book very useful. -- (For use only in the Library) M/ND

43. MacDonald, Matthew.
Creating web sites : the missing manual / Matthew MacDonald,
O'Reilly Media, Inc., ©2006. 548 p. 006.7 MAC

In *Creating Web Sites*, MacDonald provides tools, techniques, and expert guidance for developing a professional Web site. Ever changing technology setting new standards, the task of building Web sites has become more complicated. In order to build a modern Web site, one needs to understand the different ingredients and the art of integrating them together. The book has all the vital information and clear-headed advice that one would need to understand the fundamentals of Web site creation, maintenance, and updating. Further, it also assists in establishing the needs and goals of the potential or an existing Web site, and also making the site brimmed with latest features and information contents. -- C/M/ND

44. Microsoft SQL Server 2005 : database essentials : step by step / Solid Quality Learning [authors, Miguel Egea ... et al.]. Microsoft Press, ©2007. 306 p. 005.7585 MIC

This book is an excellent book for the beginners in Microsoft SQL Server. It begins with basic introduction of a database, its use, and application. It then exhaustively explains the installation of SQL Server 2005. The book further provides techniques for working with SQL Server 2005 and designing, building, testing, and deploying SQL Server databases. Step by step, the readers are guided towards mastering the fundamentals of database design and creation, and finally applying the techniques to solve problems in their own specific areas. -- C/CH/M/ND

45. Stair, Ralph M.
Succeeding with technology : computer system concepts for real life /
Ralph M. Stair, Ken Baldauf. 2nd ed. Thomson/Course Technology,
©2007. 671 p. REF 004 STA

Most of the college entering students today have fair degree of exposure to computers. They understand the basics of computers and have capability of running the popular applications. However, contemporary technological world calls for much more than mere basic understanding of these concepts. Today's scholars need to have a sound understanding of the principles and its impact on our lives. In *Succeeding with Technology*, Ralph M. Stair addresses the application of technology in different circumstances –

both in our personal life as well as professional life. The title aims to harness the technology for improving our professional productivity, society, and the world. It presents students with the underlying principles of technologies that have an impact on our lives and how those principles are related to real-world activities. Concepts have been explained in straightforward method without overwhelming readers with too many details. These have been elaborated with practical everyday life examples. This unique book offers a deeper and sound understanding of how digital technology works and how it can be harnessed to improve our lives. By focusing on the application of technology and how technology may be used by students for personal and professional gain, this text gives students the information they need to prosper. -- (For use only in the Library) C/CH/M/ND

46. Wiener, Richard.
Modern software development using C# .NET / Richard Wiener.
Thompson Learning, ©2007. 732 p. 005.133 WIE

This book comprehensively illustrates the principles of modern software development in light of the C# language supported by .NET in action. While it first focuses on the modern software development issues, the text then covers traditional data structures. The book emphasizes the effective use of existing data structures rather than the construction of data structures. The concepts are detailed and adequately illustrated with relevant examples. The book is intended for advance level computer science students, who would definitely find it worth. -- M/ND

47. Zukowski, John.
Java 6 platform revealed / John Zukowski. Apress, ©2006. 220 p.
005.133 ZUK

Updating and upgrading existing software in a common phenomenon in the software industry. Whenever a new edition of the existing platform is launched, there is a rush to acquire the new skill ahead of the others in the industry. In the dynamic world of software industry, the early programmers to pick up the new skills take the lead and become the opinion leaders for others. This book is intended for those, who believe being ahead of their time, and arm themselves with the new skills needed for tomorrow's upgraded platform. This book provides readers with early knowledge of the Java 6 platform. It takes a look at the libraries of Java SE 6, also known as Mustang. The book is short, clear, and to the

point. However, it is intended for the advanced programmers, who are already a competent Java 5 developer. -- C/CH/M/ND

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

48. United States foreign trade highlights : trends in the global Market / editors, Diane Werneke ... [et al]. Bernan Press, ©2005. 444 p. REF 382 UNI

This volume collects government data on United States international trade. Data tables provide information on U.S. international transactions and balance of payments; U.S. aggregate foreign trade, including trade balances in goods and services, trade in services by major category, and U.S. trade performance compared to top trading partners; U.S. commodity trade by geographical area and with the largest trading partners; commodity trade by detailed product categories; state exports of goods, including distribution of exported goods among manufactured, agricultural, and other goods. Also included is an explanatory discussion of the foreign trade data sources and uses. -- (For use only in the Library) CH/M (*Adapted from Book News, Inc., ©2005*)

LAW

49. Blair, Roger D.
Intellectual property : economic and legal dimensions of rights and remedies / Roger D. Blair, Thomas F. Cotter. Cambridge University Press, 2005. 304 p. 346.73048 BLA

Roger D. Blair, in *Intellectual Property*, looks into the legal and economic aspects of the intellectual property rights (IPRs). As per him, the issue has not been given adequate coverage in the existing literatures. The topic included in this book includes patents, trade secrets, copyrights, and trademarks, and the enforcement and licensing of IPRs. The book also discusses the infringement remedies and the circumstances under which those remedies should be available. The discussion, however, is limited almost entirely to U.S. laws. -- ND

50. International public goods and transfer of technology under a globalized intellectual property regime / edited by Keith E. Maskus and Jerome H. Reichman. Cambridge University Press, 2005. 922 p. 346.048 INT

Edited by Maskus and Reichman, the 35 papers by the distinguished economists, political scientists, and legal experts highlight the implications of the increasingly globalized protection of intellectual property rights to facilitate the countries in providing their citizens with such important public goods as basic research, education, public health, and environmental protection. The papers are organized into sections dealing with the concept of public goods in the expanding knowledge economy, preserving the cultural and scientific commons, technology transfer under international intellectual property standards, stimulating local innovation, developing and distributing essential medicines, protecting traditional knowledge, balancing public and private interests in the global intellectual property system, the role of competition law, and dispute settlement. -- CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Book News, Inc., ©2005*)

LITERATURE & LANGUAGE

51. Best of the best : 20 years of the Year's best science fiction / [edited by] Gardner Dozois. St Martin's Griffin, ©2005. 655 p. BES

Editor Dozois has compiled an excellent collection of stories previously published in his the series *The Year's Best Science fiction*. His annuals have long been considered the standard by which other best-of-the-year science fiction anthologies are judged. After two decades of his treasure troves of superlative science fiction, Dozois now sees fit to issue a retrospective compilation culling from all 20 of them. The results are breathtaking. Under one banner are assembled some of the best work of the genre's leading authors, from grandmasters Robert Silverberg, Gene Wolfe, and Ursula K. LeGuin to such rising stars as Stephen Baxter, Geoff Ryman, and James Patrick Kelly. A number of the selections are now considered classics – *Blood Music*, Greg Bear's Hugo-winning exploration of nanotechnology, for instance, and *Bears Discover Fire*, Terry Bisson's tongue-in-cheek consideration of future ursine evolution. While Dozois admits to selecting primarily personal favorites rather than following the more equitable formula of blending the older and the newer, he has eventually produced a feast of good reading. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Booklist., ©2005*)

52. Blish, James.
Cities in flight / by James Blish. Overlook Press, 2005. 591 p. BLI

Cities in Flight brings together the famed "Okie" novels – the science fiction epic of James Blish, which was originally published between 1955 and 1962 as four separate novels – *They Shall Have Stars*; *A Life for the Stars*; *Earthman, Come Home*; and *The Triumph of Time*. The title of this edition is apt, as the thread of the story concerns entire cities that fly through space. Featuring flying cities roaming the galaxy looking for work and a sustainable way of life, the title take us from the death of our universe to the birth of the next. Blish's classic is built on two crucial discoveries: antigravity devices – "spindizzies" that allow whole cities to be lifted from Earth to become giant spaceships; and longevity drugs, which enable the cities' inhabitants to live for thousands of years. Flying through space at impossible speeds, Blish's imagination is sure to capture the readers'. -- C/CH/M/ND

53. Cook, Robin.
Crisis / Robin Cook. G.P. Putnam's Sons, ©2006. 468 p. COO

A distinguished and self-confident physician, Dr. Craig Bowman is delivered an ego-shattering blow when he is sued for malpractice by the husband of one of his patients, hypochondriac Patience Stanhope, who died while under his care. The trial takes up the bulk of this novel. Bowman's wife asks her brother, medical examiner Dr. Jack Stapleton, to use his expertise to help with her husband's defense. Stapleton agrees, but what should be a routine forensic exercise quickly turns into a dangerous trail of lies, deception and murder. While it takes some time to get to the story's climax, Cook eventually ties up all the loose ends. Cook's fans would be delighted with this presentation. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Publishers Weekly*, ©2006)

54. The Greenwood encyclopedia of African American literature / edited by Hans Ostrom and J. David Macey, Jr. 5 v. Greenwood Press, ©2005. REF 810.9 GRE

This five volume set is both ambitious and timely. Unlike biographically based references, it focuses on the texts of African American literature and the trends and events that have influenced it. Opening with an overview and chronology, the set has more than 1,000 entries, which covers both canonized greats and lesser-known artists. These entries document the work of African American writers and their critics, literary forms and

techniques, geographic hubs that generate significant output, and influential figures and movements that have shaped this diverse tradition. Compiled by Ostrom and Macey and written by over 200 scholars, the entries are accurate, cross-referenced, and appropriate in length to encyclopedic standards. Photographs further augment the compilation's richness. This would serve as a great resource for a wide range of readers including middle and high school students and their teachers, college students and their professors, and general readers interested in learning more about the history and the range, richness, and vitality of African American literature over the past three centuries. -- (For use only in the Library) CH/ND (*Adapted from Library Journal*, ©2005)

55. Radish, Kris.
The elegant gathering of white snows / Kris Radish. Bantam Books, 2005. 321 p. RAD

This fabulous novel is about love, friendship, and letting go. Late one night in rural Wisconsin, eight women begin walking together. All of them are from various backgrounds and are of different ages, yet their friendship and unwavering mutual support have forged an immutable bond. They start their walk as support for Susan, who is facing an unwanted pregnancy, but all are walking for their own lost loves and lost dreams. As they walk, they talk about their lives, and the pain of the past is shed. The media picks up the news of their perambulation, and soon they become a national sensation that starts other women thinking about their lives, resulting in positive changes all over the country. The women are unaware of their influence, and their small community protects their privacy, so they can proceed without the intrusion of the outside world. A rallying cry for the empowerment of women, the novel is also a celebration of the strong bond that exists between female friends. This novel exposes lifetime of sorrows that have been close to the heart of a group of female friends, and tells an incomparable tale of friendship and love, loss and liberation. This is a must read novel for every woman. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Booklist*, ©2005)

56. Salter, James.
Last night / James Salter. 1st Vintage international ed. Vintage International, 2006. 132 p. SAL

Last Night is a spellbinding collection of stories about passion. The ten compact, unsettling stories by Salter portrays men and women in their

most intimate moments. Although all the stories included are superb, the title story is especially impressive – when Walter Much and his seriously ill wife, Marit, agree that he will assist in her suicide, Marit insists that Susanna, a mutual friend, come over to keep them company in her final moments. Nothing goes as planned, however, and Walter's double betrayal of his wife ushers in the haunting conclusion. The reunion stories are equally compelling – in "Palm Court," a man who initially failed to marry the love of his life meets her years later after her divorce only to find himself overwhelmed and distraught by the mixed feelings she rouses in him. "Bangkok" offers a different take on the reunion angle, as a woman tries to tempt an old flame into joining her and her female traveling companion on a sexually adventurous, last-second trip to the Far East, despite his being happily married and claiming to be satisfied with his sedate, settled life. The reserved, elegiac nature of Salter's prose and his mannered, well-bred characters lend the collection a distanced tone, but at their best these are stirring stories. -- C/CH/ND (*Adapted from Publishers Weekly*, ©2005)

57. The science fiction hall of fame : volume one, 1929-1964 / edited by Robert Silverberg. Orb, 2005. 560 p. SCI

The Science Fiction Hall of Fame: Volume One, 1929-1964 features twenty-six of the greatest science fiction stories of the first half of the 20th century. The members of the Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA) have selected these stories as the best of their era. From Isaac Asimov's classic tale of a world that only knows darkness once every thousand years ("Nightfall") to Daniel Keyes's poignant and chilling tale of an experiment in augmented intelligence ("Flowers for Algernon"), the tales in this collection showcase the best science fiction writing. Authors chosen for this title are all men and women who have shaped the body and heart of modern science fiction. They are brilliant in their imaginative creations that continue to inspire and astound new generations of writers and fans. It is indeed a wonderful book for the budding science fiction fans. -- C/CH/M/ND

58. Sparks, Nicholas.
True believer / Nicholas Sparks. Warner Books, ©2005. 322 p. SPA

Jeremy Marsh, a famous science writer from New York, meets Lexie, the librarian in Boone Creek, North Carolina, when he goes to investigate ghosts that haunt the local cemetery. In a classic romance plot, the attractive yet sensitive Jeremy gets attracted to the beautiful yet stubborn town librarian,

Lexie Darnell, who happens to be the granddaughter of a local diviner. Initially she tries to hide her emotions but eventually gives up. Everyone in the town of Cedar Creek knows that they love each other but there are a few people that want to tear them apart. The plot of the novel has some nice twists, which would be appreciated by Sparks's many fans. -- C/CH/ND

59. Taylor, Travis S.
The quantum connection / Travis S. Taylor. Baen Books, ©2005.
289 p. TAY

In his second novel *The Quantum Connection*, Taylor presents Steven as a computer geek whose whole family and friends has died as a result of a rain of meteors that killed millions around the world. There were many ups and down in his life, until he got a great opportunity to work for a government think tank, cracking computer codes, and reverse engineering unusual hardware. He along with his boss was called to Washington for a secret meeting, where he was asked countless questions without answering any of his. But he would soon learn all the answers. The meteor onslaught that had orphaned him had actually been a brief and still secret war between the United States and its enemies using a new warp drive technology that was more secret than top secret. Also, U.S. had been sending faster-than-light ships to other star systems. Most secret of all was that unfriendly aliens were observing the Earth, and while U.S. spaceships were not quite in a war with the unknown aliens, they were shooting at the intruders. Steven learned these only after those aliens abducted him and held him prisoner on one of their ships orbiting Saturn. He then narrowly escapes being dissected by alien Grays. Like a video-game warrior, he slays the aliens and liberates fellow captive Titania. Taylor's blend of imaginative characters, technology and an optimistic view of humanity's potential make this novel very interesting read. Loaded with action and suspense throughout, the thing that actually makes this novel exclusive is neither action or adventure, but the story of Steven and his dog Lazarus. The relationship between Steven and his dog is perhaps the most interesting and touching part of this novel. -- C/CH/M/ND

60. Williams, Joy.
Honored guest : stories / Joy Williams. 1st Vintage Contemporaries ed.
Vintage Books, 2005. 213 p. WIL

"To live was like being an honored guest," muses a teenage girl whose mother is dying. While death, loss and the likelihood of losing touch

with reality are the focus of these 12 short stories by Williams, the elusive possibility of hope and mental well-being waits in the shadows, maybe even just within reach. Williams's deliciously fallible characters are often unfazed by their erratic behavior and violent eruptions. At work one day, a widowed masseuse in "Hammer" snaps her prosperous client's wrist bone without provocation. In "Charity," Richard refuses to stop for a needy family despite Janice's pleas. When he gets out of the car for gas, "Janice moved across the seat quickly, grasped the wheel and drove off," returning to the family and perhaps losing Richard forever. Williams's grasp of the slippery line between life and death is strong: she jars the reader with news of a debilitating accident or a fatality without a breath of forewarning. Her characters speak like poets or philosophers, and her prose is imaginative and dynamic making her short stories vibrant and alive. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Publishers Weekly*, ©2004)

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

61. Gerjes, Fawaz A.
The far enemy : why jihad went global / Fawaz A. Gerjes. Cambridge University Press, 2005. 345 p. 297.72 GER

Gerjes is well known for his expert media commentary on the Middle East. This book differs from many others on the topics of Islam and jihad in its assertion that only a small percentage of jihadists are concerned with international issues. Most are religious nationalists concerned with ending secularization in their own country and, possibly, replacing corrupt leaders. In the mid-1990s a few jihadists, flush with success after ousting the Soviet Union from Afghanistan and irate at the presence of the U.S. troops on holy ground in Saudi Arabia, changed their emphasis and began to confront other enemies outside their own country. The most visible action of these few, on September 11, 2001, is not supported by most other jihadist groups. The author bases his conclusions on extensive interviews with many individuals in the region and on documents that were issued by jihad leaders. Fawaz Gerjes makes reading fun with his great writing style mixed in with tons of useful and educational information. -- C (*Adapted from Library Journal*, ©2005)

62. Hafrey, Leigh.
The story of success : five steps to mastering ethics in business / Leigh Hafrey. Other Press, ©2005. 257 p. 174.4 HAF

Leigh Hafrey draws fifteen years of conversations with businesspeople at all stages of their careers, from MBA to Chairman of the Board, to articulate five steps that generate ethical practice – "Speak Up Speak Out" (defining one's management style); "See the Big Picture" (recognizing forces that impact ethical practice); "Break the Rules, Make the Rules, Absorb the Cost" (driving change); "Tell Good Stories" (finding stories that celebrate the best in people); and "Test for Truth" (distinguishing fact from fantasy). Hafrey emphasizes the effectiveness of storytelling as a means to communicate ethical principles and their application, and he uses contemporary books and movies to illustrate his themes. Hafrey juxtaposes these narratives with real-life stories of different businesspeople and speculates on the way in which American business values increasingly shape and will be shaped by global culture. -- C/CH/M/ND

63. Morris, Jonathan.
The ethics of biotechnology / Jonathan Morris. Chelsea House Publishers, ©2006. 158 p. 174.9 MOR

Recent past has witnessed a lot of research and developmental work in the field of biotechnology, which has paved way for this new technology to affect various aspects of our life. This book on biotechnology's ethics provides students with several colored diagrams to explain cloning and stem cell research. However, advancement in biotechnology has also given rise to several controversies. People seem to have an opinion about the benefits and dangers of cloning, genetic engineering, stem cell research, and other new scientific techniques. This exciting book explores all sides of the issues including ethical issues associated with biotechnology. -- C/CH/M/ND

POLITICAL SCIENCE

64. Benjamin, Daniel.
The next attack : the failure of the war on terror and a strategy for getting it right / Daniel Benjamin and Steven Simon. Times Books, ©2005. 330 p. 973.931 BEN

In *The Next Attack*, Analysts Simon and Benjamin argue the war on terrorism cannot be won with bullets. Rather, there is a need of a whole new approach to terrorism. According to them, United States is vulnerable to another terrorist attack. Based on the interviews with current and former government officials, they warn that actions by the Bush administration are only energizing radical Islamist groups and paving the way for further terrorist attacks even as the United States squander resources in the war in Iraq. Despite unsubstantiated and overstated claims of success in apprehending al Qaeda members, the group remains elusive. And many self-started terrorist groups that have patterned themselves after al Qaeda have attacked targets from Madrid to London to Kuwait. With the aid of technology and the Internet, the threat to the U.S. has become more agile and mobile. Exploring the long history of Islamic tensions with the West, the authors note that jihadists applaud U.S. difficulties in occupying Iraq and the benefits to their recruitment efforts, as they compare the troubled U.S. occupation with that of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan in the 1980s. This is a fascinating, though deeply troubling, look at the U.S. strategy against terrorism. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Booklist*, ©2005)

65. Box, Richard C.
Public administration and society : critical issues in American governance / Richard C. Box. M.E. Sharpe, ©2004. 299 p. 351 BOX

This book addresses the societal-institutional contexts of public administration in the United States and explores the issues regarding community leadership and governance in a democracy. It is intended to be used as a supplemental text for the introductory courses in higher-level academic courses in public administration. It provides a critical and historical treatment of the cultural, political, institutional, and economic context of public administration. -- CH/M/ND

66. Herspring, Dale R.
The Pentagon and the presidency : civil-military relations from FDR to George W. Bush / Dale R. Herspring. University Press of Kansas, ©2005. 490 p. 322.5 HER

This is a probing analysis of the U.S. civil-military relationship, which has often been very tense. Herspring reveals that, in the end, it is up to the military to adjust to the president rather than the other way around. In this path-breaking title, he has reevaluated U.S. presidents from Franklin D. Roosevelt to George W. Bush. He draws that the presidents who have genuine respect for military culture manage the conflicts more effectively than those who don't. In the final chapter, he ranks the presidents according to their degree of conflict with the military. He clearly shows how the nature of civilian control has changed during the past half century, and argues that the military should be treated as just another interest group of the United States government. -- M

67. Patel, Kant.
The politics of public health in the United States / Kant Patel and Mark E. Rushefsky ; with a foreword by Deborah R. McFarlane. M.E. Sharpe, ©2005. 346 p. 362.1 PAT

Public health system exists to promote health and prevention of diseases, and is a very contentious policy area. The path-breaking book examines the politics of public health in the United States. It surveys the politics, policies, and policy methodologies of public health and the twenty-first century challenges to the public health system of the United States. Public health is an integral part of health care with many important achievements. The public health infrastructure in the U.S. is elaborate and exists at all levels of government. At the same time, the authors also explore that public health in the United States has many problems and is underappreciated. Further, they examine lack of cohesion in the system as well as lack of attention by government or the public. It was only in the wake of 9/11 terrorist attack that critical attention once more turned to public health. -- ND

PSYCHOLOGY

68. Gladwell, Malcolm.
Blink : the power of thinking without thinking / Malcolm Gladwell.
Little, Brown and Co., ©2005. 277 p. 153.44 GLA

Gladwell has a dazzling ability to find commonality in disparate fields of study. Once again he displays this in *Blink: the Power of Thinking Without Thinking*, and examines the process of snap decision making looking at how we make snap judgments – about people's intentions, the authenticity of a work of art, even military strategy and so on. Most decisions are made instantaneously and unconsciously. The book is concluded on the basis of the study of instant decision making in a wide range of situations – from psychology to police work. He asserts that better instant judgments can be made by training our mind and senses, so as to focus on the most relevant facts. This book reveals that great decisions aren't those who process the most information or spend the most time deliberating, but those who have perfected the art of "thin-slicing" – filtering the very few factors that matter from an overwhelming number of variables. The book indeed has the capacity of reorienting our thinking about thinking. -- C

69. Harris, Judith Rich.
No two alike : human nature and human individuality / Judith Rich Harris. W.W. Norton & Co., ©2006. 322 p. 155.2 HAR

Why do identical twins who grow up together differ in personality? Harris attempts to solve that mystery. This work is a follow up of her initial thesis *The Nurture Assumption: Why Children Turn Out the Way They Do*, and is a stronger and detailed account of the same. Her argument in this title is based on evolutionary psychology. Reading this book is akin to working one's way through a mystery novel-complete with periodic references to Sherlock Holmes. And Harris has a knack for interspersing scientific and research-laden text with personal anecdotes. Initially, she refutes five red herring theories of personality differences, including differences in environment and gene-environment interactions. Eventually, Harris presents her own theory, starting from modular notions of the brain (as Steven Pinker puts it, "the mind is not a single organ but a system of organs"). Harris offers a three-systems theory of personality – the relationship system, the socialization system and the status system. And while she admits her theory of personality isn't simple, it is

thought provoking. Harris ties up the loose ends of the new theory, showing how the development of the three systems creates personality. Harris's writing is highly entertaining, which will help readers stick with her through the elaboration of a fairly complex theory. -- C/CH/M/ND (Adapted from *Publishers Weekly*, ©2005)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

70. Curnell, John D.
Essentials of physics / John D. Cutnell, Kenneth W. Johnson. Wiley,
©2006. 694 p. 530 CUT

This textbook of physics offers an alternative to the widely available standard texts of physics. This book written in a straightforward manner presents the core topics of introductory physics. Texts have been elaborated with conceptual examples. Abridged but comprehensive summaries are given at the end of each chapter, which would be very helpful for students in reviewing the material. The title is supplemented with online self-assessment tests that are linked directly to specific sections of the book. Clarity of texts and a user-friendly approach provides conceptual understanding for the students. -- C/CH/M/ND

71. Shmaefsky, Brian.
Biotechnology on the farm and in the factory : agricultural and
industrial applications / Brian Shmaefsky. Chelsea House Publishers,
©2006. 158 p. 664.024 SHM

This comprehensive volume explores the penetration of biotechnology in our everyday life including agriculture. The contents covered sweep across the biotech industry and highlights the examples of biotechnology's use and role in agriculture throughout history. New species of plants are being developed that do very well at fighting off pests. However, they have their own limitations like they may not do very well in other parts of the ecosystem. This book looks into the controversies surrounding genetic engineering and addresses the safety and moral issues. It provides the students and readers with the necessary information and stresses the necessity of understanding the biotechnology to make wise choices while using this technology. -- C/CH/M/ND

72. Stefik, Mark.
Breakthrough : stories and strategies of radical innovation / Mark Stefik
and Barbara Stefik. MIT Press, 2006. 294 p. 608 STE

Growing popularity of open innovation among the companies has witnessed decline in innovations and breakthroughs. Open innovation implies acquiring technologies from other companies and marketing their own. Although open innovation makes good economic sense, no one has ever achieved a breakthrough with open innovation. The challenge of the twenty first century requires strategies for open innovation and open invention. The authors argue that culture of innovation without honor for breakthroughs can only lead to incremental improvements and not true invention. Open invention refers to strategies for creating inventions and breakthroughs. Capacity for creating breakthroughs depends on combination of science, imagination, and business. This book provides a road map to the ways of invention and innovation. It illustrates how innovation works and how breakthroughs are created. The authors argue that the universities, technology companies, government funding agencies, venture capitalists, and corporate research laboratories should come forward and foster the conditions in which breakthroughs arise. -- C/CH/M/ND

SOCIOLOGY

73. Grier, Katherine C.
Pets in America : a history / Katherine C. Grier. University of North
Carolina Press, ©2006. 377 p. 636.0887 GRI

In this encyclopedic portrait of America's relationships with pets, Grier describes the changing cultural sensibilities that have defined the experience of American pet owners from colonial times to the present. Grier draws on diaries, magazines, advice books, illustrations and photographs for this serious book reflecting the author's interest in the symbolic and metaphorical role pets play in American culture. Grier's definition of "pet" is broad and includes domestic animals like urban horses as well as chickens and pigs, which were routinely raised by children on farms as quasi-pets. Although she is primarily interested in human-animal relationships, Grier doesn't neglect the developing commercial multibillion-dollar pet industry. The book is scholarly, thorough, informative and animal friendly. -- C/CH/M/ND
(Adapted from *Publishers Weekly*, ©2005)

74. Kochan, Thomas A.
Restoring the American dream : a working families' agenda for
America / Thomas A. Kochan. MIT Press, 2006. 247 p. 306.36 KOC

Despite the fact that America is the wealthiest country in the world, American workers are experiencing a generation-long stagnation of wages and living standards. In this timely and invaluable book, Thomas Kochan assesses the economic challenges confronting American workers. He emphasizes the needed voices of America's working families in shaping the debate about the American economy. *Restoring the American Dream* lays out the facts facing American workers and their families. This is an eye-opening book that gives special and long-overdue emphasis to a fairer work-family balance in this rapidly changing world. It also proposes a set of actionable recommendations that can optimistically affect American society. The book offers practical and executable solutions for facilitating and ensuring that the 21st century economy rewards and values the work of every American, not just the chief executives. This is a valuable guide for a better and brighter future, as America approaches towards a knowledge-based economy in true sense and achieves genuine economic security for all Americans. -- C/CH/M/ND

75. Trussoni, Danielle.
Falling through the Earth : a memoir / Danielle Trussoni. Henry Holt,
2006. 240 p. 306.8742 TRU

During the Vietnam War, Trussoni's father was a tunnel rat who worked his way through the underground network of tunnels in search of the enemy and possibly American prisoners of war. Years later, his daughter Danielle made the journey to Vietnam in an attempt to feel what her father experienced there. This memoir recounts not only her father's story of Vietnam and the story of Danielle's pilgrimage, but also Danielle's story of growing up with her father. Danielle's family was dysfunctional and eventually her parents divorced. Danielle stayed with her father for several years, while the rest of her siblings went with her mother. All three story lines are intertwined into an extremely engaging, novel-like narrative that leaves an indelible imprint on the heart and mind. -- C/CH/M/ND (Adapted from *Library Journal*, ©2006)

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